Frank W. Loops, 2nd Lt., A.C.
B.T.C. - A.P.O. 525
% Postmaster N.Y.C.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
525
MAY
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1943
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AIR MAIL

Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Loops, Jr.
907 Chowan Ave.
Lynchburg, Virginia
U.S.A.

Censored by:
F.W. Loops

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Frank W. Loops, 2nd Lt., A.C.
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May 14, 1943 - Friday

Hallo Shorts,

Imagine, a line from you little brother -!- Anything can happen now! And probably will. - I don't know just what will end up on this - cause I wrote the folks the other day and know you will get to see that eventually - so what's the percentage in repeating myself? - And I don't really know enough to write to fill two letters with different topics, so about this time I'm wondering why I ever started a letter in the beginning?

You'd get a kick out of being over here with me - we see some of the strangest, darndest, + fascinating things you can imagine - both from the military point of view, and from a traveler's point of view. - You can never bank on what you'll see next. -

Just take planes for example - we get to see - climb all over and sometimes fly the very latest things made - and then you're liabible to turn around and see an old French plane flying around that

looks very suspiciously like a lot of the very earliest planes used, now reposing blissfully in the Smithsonian.- In fact, I've caught myself wondering if some of the planes I used to see there aren't now here!- It sure surprised me!-

Then again - you might wonder as to the type plane it is - and some one will tell you it isn't a plane at all - but an African mosquito!- I'll take back every thing I ever said about those in Florida,- cause, surely,- we have the daddys of them all!- We are almost afraid to swat one of 'em for fear of maybe just maiming it and making it really angry at us. They just stand up and box, then,- looking for an opening to shoot you full of malaria For which we take Quinine each day - heaven bless 'em!

And the flies -!- I'd sure like to get back and exchange a few for some good old American Variety!- These darn things haven't even the common decency to move when you wave at 'em! And when you move 'em bodily - the darn things come right back and light on the very same place.- They are too strong minded to suit me!

— May 23 —

Didn't get to finish it, - did I? - Oh well, no harm done. - At least one thing, - when you write over here - you don't have the driving urge to hurry and mail it before the next "pick up". - There "ain't" any!

Got a V mail from Sister yesterday: The first message of any sort I've received, and boy, - that's a long time. - It was written the 29th of April - day after Ma's birthday. - She told me of the occasion and mentioned Janet in one or two places - and also said something about so much company on Easter - so putting 2 + 2 together - I gather that the Virginia (God bless it) clan got to gather a mite with the D.C. clan in spite of threatened priorities and stuff! Mighty fine - says I. - Along about that time I was hitting the African Coasts and sorta glad I could quit "sweating out" having to use my little rubber boat and playing with the "three little fishies" and all their kin folk.

As I said earlier - not a heck of a lot to write about. - I'm seeing all sorts of stuff including air-raids. - You should feel lucky - over here we have the real McCoy

not practice ones.- It's not too much fun to have to stumble out in the dark - but there's a certain satisfaction knowing their time to duck will be on the morrow, probably.- But let's not talk shop!

We just went on day light savings here.- Time was already pushed up an hour, I believe - so that makes our local time just 6 hrs ahead of Eastern War time.- It seems funny - sometimes when I'm going somewhere - particularly on a Sunday morning - I look at my watch and figure back the time to see what I would be doing home at this same time.- Why, I would just be getting home from a date -!

Maybe I'd best stop this rambling and mail this if you're ever going to get it.- Anyway - I'm tired of dodging the censorable + the uncensorable! So bye for now - and exercise your writing arm once in a while.-

Frank

P.S.- I'll have to save the foreign money - The powers that be say "nix" on sending it -